

fixed incomes, and people with disabilities will have to make up the remaining cost out of their own pockets. The problem is that millions of those people simply do not have the money to make up the difference.

In addition, only 16 percent of eligible LIHEAP recipients currently receive assistance with their home heating bills, and 84 percent of eligible low-income families with children, seniors on fixed incomes, and people with disabilities do not receive any LIHEAP assistance whatsoever due to a lack of funding.

In my State of Vermont, it has been reported that outrageously high home heating costs are pushing families into homelessness. In fact, it is not uncommon for families with two working parents to receive help from homeless shelters in the State of Vermont because they cannot find anyplace else to live in winter.

But this is a national energy emergency certainly well beyond Vermont and well beyond the Northeast. On January 17, 1 day after the President released \$450 million in emergency LIHEAP funding, the National Energy Assistance Directors Association testified in front of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee field hearing chaired by Senator KENNEDY. Here is what the national energy directors reported on just a few of the States:

In Arkansas, the number of families receiving LIHEAP assistance is expected to be reduced by up to 20 percent from last year unless we get more funding.

The State of Arizona estimates they will have to cut the number of families receiving LIHEAP assistance by 10,000 as compared to last year.

In Delaware, the number of families receiving LIHEAP assistance will be reduced by up to 20 percent.

In Iowa, regular LIHEAP grants have been cut by 7 percent from last year.

In Maine, the average LIHEAP grant will only pay for about 2 to 3 weeks of home heating costs in most homes in that State.

The State of Kentucky could run out of LIHEAP funds in the near future.

In Massachusetts, the spike in energy costs means that the purchasing cost for LIHEAP has declined by 39 percent since 2006.

The State of Minnesota could run out of LIHEAP funding as well.

On and on it goes. In New York State, in Ohio, in Rhode Island, in Texas, in Washington, in State after State the simple arithmetic works out that if the cost of heating fuel is soaring, in order to provide the same benefits to the same number of people, we need to significantly increase our funding for LIHEAP, and we are not doing that. That is what this amendment is about.

There is a lot of discussion on this floor about emergencies. This is an emergency. There is a lot of discussion on this floor about moral values. This

is a moral issue. In the United States of America, the wealthiest Nation in the history of the world, millions of senior citizens and low-income parents with kids should not be forced to worry about whether their homes will be warm this winter. People should not have to make the choice between keeping warm or paying for other basic necessities of life. This is an emergency situation. This is a moral situation.

I wish to thank all of the cosponsors who have come on board this legislation. I ask my colleagues to strongly support this amendment.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There does not appear to be a sufficient second.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4020 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3899

Mr. TESTER. I send amendment No. 4020 to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. TESTER] proposes an amendment numbered 4020 to amendment No. 3899.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress regarding law enforcement and methamphetamine issues in Indian country)

On page 336, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

**“SEC. 815. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND METHAMPHETAMINE ISSUES IN INDIAN COUNTRY.**

“It is the sense of Congress that Congress encourages State, local, and Indian tribal law enforcement agencies to enter into memoranda of agreement between and among those agencies for purposes of streamlining law enforcement activities and maximizing the use of limited resources—

“(1) to improve law enforcement services provided to Indian tribal communities; and

“(2) to increase the effectiveness of measures to address problems relating to methamphetamine use in Indian Country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code).

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, this amendment is designed to encourage law enforcement in Indian country—at the local, State, and Federal level—to work together to combat methamphetamine issues. It encourages local,

State, and Federal police to enter into memorandums of understanding with tribal law enforcement to pool resources to fight meth addiction. It does not require it; it just encourages it. All four law enforcement entities should collaborate to ensure that all can be done to beat back the meth problems that plague Indian country.

Methamphetamine abuse is an American problem. It infiltrates and devastates communities across the country. Unfortunately, it is a problem that disproportionately impacts tribal communities. American Indians now experience the highest meth usage rates of any ethnic group.

I will give one example. American Indians use methamphetamines 17 times higher than African Americans. The list goes on and on. They are the highest meth usage ethnic group. Beyond the high rate of meth use among American Indians, Alaska natives, and native Hawaiians nationwide, individual Indian tribes have been struggling with the impact of meth use on their communities. For example, on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana in 2005, 16 out of 64 babies, or 25 percent, were born to meth-addicted mothers. This number has increased in 2006. We must do everything possible to address this epidemic and protect our children from this scourge of modern society.

In hearings before the Indian Affairs Committee, we heard testimony about Mexican drug cartels targeting rural reservations. They are targeting these vulnerable areas both for the sale of meth and for distribution hubs. Drug smugglers target Indian communities for several reasons: the complex nature of their criminal jurisdiction on Indian reservations and because tribal police forces have been historically underfunded and understaffed. This is a big problem. It is a huge problem in Indian country. We need to encourage Indian tribes, Federal police, local police to sign memorandums of understanding by each of these four different entities—Indian government, State government, local government, and Federal law enforcement agencies. These memorandums will identify specific law enforcement activity and establish exactly what each agency is responsible for.

The feedback we hear is that the memorandums that are in place are working and that the agencies participating in these agreements report a significant increase in communication and a decrease in traffic. This amendment simply asks law enforcement and agencies at every level to work together to beat the meth problem and improve quality of life in Indian country.

By signing memorandums of understanding, our communities will be better prepared to tackle this meth problem. At the same time we foster Indian self-determination and strengthen government-to-government relationships. The amendment will improve Indian